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Such as it is, the book—however guarded Professor Nicholson may be—will tell in favor of the unionist propaganda not only for imperialism, but for “tariff reform.”

Harvard University.

F. W. TAUSSIG.

Selections from the Economic History of the United States. 1765–1860. By G. S. CALLENDER, Professor of Economics in Yale University, (Boston: Ginn & Co., 1909. \$2.75.)

This does not purport to be a text book nor a treatise, but a “manageable body of reading for college and university courses.” The editor has set himself a task well-nigh impossible within the compass of 800 pages, and the result can hardly be satisfactory to one accustomed to dealing with sources. Many of the selections are admirable, but others are hardly worth the space devoted to them. There seems no reason for giving passages from Hildreth, Pitkin, De Tocqueville, Cairnes, Sumner, Seeley—references to be found in any college library; and the accounts given by Dickens and Trollope of the peculiarities of American travel and travelers can hardly be regarded as having economic significance. One notes, on the other hand, some serious omissions; Lambert’s *Travels*, Buell’s *American Husbandry*, Chickering’s *Foreign Immigration*, Collins’ *Historical Sketches of Kentucky*, and Philip Hone’s *Diary* would have furnished material quite as illuminating as anything cited by Mr. Callender. But leaving aside matters of choice, it is possible that mere selections are likely to misrepresent the original and that a cursory acquaintance with a book as a whole is more educational than familiarity with fragments. Students who have access to good libraries should certainly be encouraged to go to the originals.

What is needed by the teacher of economic history is not a book of selections but a series of reprints representative of our very rich collection of first hand observation. No industrial development has been watched with more curiosity nor recorded with greater fidelity than the material progress of the United States. Such a series should be comparable in scope to Thwaite’s *Early Western Travels* and should include the accounts of the shrewder explorers, such as Captain John Smith; the reports of colonial governors; the

letters, speeches, and official statements of influential statesmen such as Franklin, John Adams, Washington, Hamilton, Jefferson, John Randolph, Clay, Calhoun, Webster; the journals of such American pioneers as Timothy Flint, and the impressions of foreign observers of economic bent like Holmes, Russell, and Harriet Martineau. This need be by no means so costly an undertaking as the *Documentary History of American Industrial Society*, because the material would be readily available.

By far the most suggestive part of Mr. Callender's book is his own brief introductions to the several chapters. One can but wish that he had undertaken to cover the whole ground in this clear-sighted, comprehensive fashion. As to subject matter, every student will be governed by his own bias, but one is surprised to find that agriculture, our basic industry, receives only incidental attention. There is no suggestion of the introduction of labor-saving machinery and the education in scientific tillage which have enabled us to master our widely varied resources with unprecedented rapidity. The Embargo and the War of 1812 are neither discussed nor elucidated from contemporary records, although this double catastrophe turned New England capital and enterprise from shipping to manufacture. Then again, the crises of 1819, 1837, 1857 are entirely ignored, although each in its turn was intimately related to tariff and currency enactments and had an important influence on the westward movement of population, transportation enterprise, etc. The editor apparently carries his disapproval of the cataclysmic type of history to an extreme, and consequently falls into the opposite error of underrating the industrial consequences of wars, crises, and commercial and financial legislation.

By far the most suggestive portion of the book is the final chapter on the economic aspects of slavery. Both the introductory discussion and the passages cited bring new light to bear on this much debated phase of the decadence of the South.

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